

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Executive Conference Room
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: Tom Erter (Vice Chairman), Ronald Campbell, Erac Priester, Bruce Yeager, Greg McCord, Mike Manesiotis

Board Members Absent: Arthur Middleton, Chairman, and Ron Campbell

Staff Present: Shannon Loper (Director to PALS), Matt Watts (Deputy Director to PALS), Phil Foot (Assistant County Administrator-Public Safety), Missy Easler (Office Manager/Administrative Technician to PALS), Kristina Winland (PALS Pool Manager), Vincent Leon (PALS Pool Manger), Anny Binette (PALS Pool Manager)

Guest Present: Kort Wickenheiser (Director of Sales for FIRSTFORM), and Dustin Gilbreth (Regional Sales Manager for FIRSTFORM)

Call to Order:

Tom Erter called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

Introduction:

Shannon Loper introduced Matt Watts as the new Deputy Director to PALS. Matt was Athletic Director in the City of Florence, from January 2013 until coming on board with PALS. Matt has a Bachelor Degree in Science of Sports and Entertainment Management from University of South Carolina and a Master of Science in Sports and Entertainment Management from University of South Carolina. After completion of his degree, he accepted a position with the City of Florence Recreation Department as their Athletic Director; he has been overseeing their athletic program. Recently became District Director for the Dixie Boys in this area. Shannon has worked with Matt for 5 years and they work well together. They don't always see eye to eye but usually come up with the right solution. Matt said that he has only been in the office 6 hours due to the meetings he has been involved in. He says the staff has been great to him and he looks forward to getting to know everyone.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Review:

The Board reviewed minutes from February's meeting but they were unable to approve them because the agenda was not turned in 24 hours prior to the meeting. February's minutes will need to be reviewed at the June 1st meeting. The Board will not vote on anything in this meeting.

Financials:

Missy Easler introduced herself as the financial and administrative support for PALS. A revenue report was presented for the period of July 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. An Impact Fee Report was also presented for the period of July 1, 2016 to April 25, 2017. Bruce Yeager asked if the expenditures in the Impact Fee fund fully paid for the Buckwalter Expansion. Shannon said that it has, and Missy stated that there was an additional \$12,000 committed for an engineering firm, but that it should be the last of it. Bruce also asked if the beginning fund balance

of \$852,000 was the running rate for a quarter and Missy stated this is for three-quarters of the fiscal year. Missy stated that PALS is still having troubles with getting Munis and MaxGalaxy to interface. The figures she pulled for the revenue report are from MaxGalaxy only. Missy has a meeting with Alicia Holland in the middle of May to find out what can be done to resolve the issues. Bruce Yeager commented on the admission numbers for Burton Wells at 8,209 being so high compared to Buckwalter; Shannon commented that there will be an increase at Buckwalter once the expansion is opened. The Board would like a financial report detailing expenditures and revenues, comparing this year to last.

New Business:

- A. **Time of Meetings:** It was asked if Board members wanted to change the time of the meeting to a later time in the day. Mike Manesiotis motioned to move meetings to Bluffton, and then stated meeting time is fine. He said that the missed meetings were not because of time but because of other meetings that occurred at same time. Bruce Yeager stated that if meetings were later it would be even more difficult to make it over the Beaufort. The Board decided that the meeting times should stay at 2:30 pm.
- B. **Free Summer Reading Passes:** Shannon asked the Board their thoughts on "Build a Better World" summer reading program. The Library has requested free pool passes to be given out to children that are a part of the program during the summer months. They have requested a 1,000 passes. Shannon suggested that maybe she should give out 200 passes. The Board asked how many participate in the reading program and Shannon stated that it varies each summer. Information is not available for the quantity of participants of the program. It is a county wide program. The Board asked if the passes are for swim lessons or a day visit to the pool. They stated that if the child can't swim then the swim pass is moot point. They suggested that maybe PALS should give out passes for free swim classes to those that can't swim, and a pool pass to those who can. The Board says that these passes should be given for the indoor pools and then maybe use the Lind Brown pool as the ultimate prize. It is a one-time pass, good till the end of the summer. Shannon will check with Library to see how many register in Beaufort and Bluffton.
- C. **Military Refund:** Military personnel should not be penalized if they have orders to move to another location. They will have to provide documentation to proceed with their refund.
- D. **Ball field Prices:** Shannon proposed to change pricing of field rental for organized sports to correspond to regular rental rates. Organized sports should pay regular rates. This will make it consistent for all the field rentals.
- E. **Artificial Turf:** PALS has moved forward with Buckwalter and the use of impact fees. Three additional fields have been cleared and PALS has worked with the Engineering Department to bring in the dirt from the 278 and 170 projects, which built up the fields. PALS will need to get something on the fields eventually, so Shannon is looking at the option of placing turf on the lacrosse, soccer and football fields. A presentation was made by the Firstform team, Kort Wickernheiser and Dustin Gilbreth, on the benefits of their artificial turf.
- F. **Pool Closing:** Shannon proposed closing the Battery Creek Pool. The pools need major repairs and closing one of the pools would fund those repairs. The County could give BC Pool back to the Beaufort County School District. Dr. McCord scheduled a meeting to go over the possibility of the school taking it back.

Director's Report:

- A. **Tennis:** There is Sunday tennis in Bluffton at Ulmer Road Tennis Courts and in Beaufort at Southside Tennis Park.
- B. **Travel Basketball:** PALS has partnered with a couple of travel basketball organizations. PALS will have a couple of tournaments this summer. PALS will have a 60/40 agreement for the program; the travel organizations will get 60 percent and PALS will get 40 percent. The travel organizations will provide the volunteers to help run the events. They will not pay a rental fee with the 60/40 agreement. PALS will split all the admissions and concessions monies evenly with the travel organizations.
- C. **Grace Sulak:** There's a dedication scheduled for Saturday, April 29th at 8:45 at Buckwalter athletic fields.

- D. **Fishing Tournament:** A fishing tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, at the Burton Wells Pond. DNR is sponsoring the event. The first 50 kids will receive a fishing rod. They have stocked the ponds for the event.
- E. **Code of Conduct:** Little League baseball coaches brawl was to be presented in the power point, but it didn't connect to the website.
- F. **Athletics:**
- PALS have transitioned to handling the officials instead of using Beaufort Officials Association. There have been some growing pains with it, but the staff has it under control. Everything is covered at this point, except when there is a cancellation at the last minute. PALS have been trying to recruit the high school kid but they are finishing their seasons. Once their seasons are over, it will get easier.
 - There were no issues with Basketball season.
 - Adult softball in Bluffton has already begun. The Bronze league plays on Monday and the Gold League plays on Thursday. PALS lost the co-ed team because we could not guarantee them a night. There ended up being 10 or 12 teams.
 - Beaufort church league registration will start on May 1st.
 - Adult basketball will start on May 1st in Bluffton.
 - Adult volleyball plays in Bluffton on Thursday nights. There are 10 teams.
 - Youth Lacrosse has begun, with 58 kids signed up.
 - The registration numbers were presented for Spring baseball, softball, flag football and soccer.
 - There were 4 portable mounds ordered and portable fencing ordered for Coursen Tate Park. The PVC fencing is easier to use and safer if the kids fall into it; the fencing just breaks away with the impact.
- G. **Aquatics:** The Battery Creek Pool, Beaufort Pool and Bluffton Pool numbers were presented for the period of February 1st to March 31st. Movie night and teen night are going to be moving to the outdoor pool which may increase participation.
- H. **Summer Nutrition:** Matt, Missy and Shannon attended training for the Summer Nutrition Program last week. PALS are just doing the home sites this year. The other sites will be done by Low Country Food Bank. The School district will be doing the YMCA's and Boy's and Girl's Club. We are going to meet with the School District after summer is over to see how we can work together next year.
- I. **Construction Project Updates:** PALS is still waiting on opening Buckwalter. A third party engineer was hired and they came in and found some issues. Most of the issues have been resolved. We are on standby waiting for the "go" to open.
- J. **Employee Update:** PALS needs an Administrative Technician and Recreation Specialist at Burton Wells. The compensation study changed the pay for those positions. We also need lifeguards for the summer season.

Announcements: Meetings are now every other month.

Next meeting is June 1st in Bluffton.

No Executive Session.

Adjourned at 4:29 pm